

WORSHIP INTUITIVE AND INCENTIVES TO CHRISTIANITY

W. H. MILLER

Man is a worshipful being. He feels the need of worship. He realizes that he needs a strength greater than his own to successfully combat with prevailing evils and meet the obligations of life.

Man will worship either the God of heaven, gods of their own devising or of other men's creating and cunning.

A certain writer has said that the man who worships, be it but a stick or stone is nobler than did he not worship at all.

I believe worship is natural to our nature. To worship is intuitive to the human race.

Before us is a piece of wood with a most beautiful grain. As it is impossible to remove the grain from the wood without destroying it; so no more can we remove the element of religion, (of worship) from the human race, without destroying its identity and removing the element which differentiates from the lower animal creation.

It is true that in some this divine element may be encrusted with stony layers of ignorance, superstition and tradition; in others it is encrusted by Pharisaical living and false doctrine. It exists nevertheless.

Did all men possess the true religion this would be a glorious world, but many have erred and wondered from the right, so it is absolutely necessary that man be prepared to emit the true light.

This requires evangelizing and the breaking of the incrustation, over men's souls and a melting of stony hearts.

This done then is a soul ready to attain to the highest in worship.

Christianity holds out certain promises and revelations to mankind.

Man must either accept or reject. I may mention the following as incentives to Christianity.

1. Blessings both temporal and spiritual are in store for him who has the Christ-life.

But seek ye first, the kingdom of God, and his righteousness: and all these things shall be added unto you. Matt. 6:33, see also Luke 12:31, and James 1:25.

This means to me that if we have the Christ-life within us, God will provide for us and act as our guardian.

For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost. Rom. 14:17.

The truth here stated is:—that spiritual living is our greatest good and that the elements leading to such a life are to us in the Holy Ghost.

For God so loved the world, that he

gave his only begotten son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life. Jno. 3:16.

Luther called this verse the "Pawa Biblia." We may well say it shows Christ's mission to the world, and in it find everlasting life. This would include the plan of salvation revealed, and man's regeneration.

A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another, as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. Jno. 13:34.

This is my commandment, that ye love one another as I have loved you. Jno. 15:12.

This shows to us brotherly love, and the depth of genuine brotherly love.

It is a gospel gift to us, and a blessing because this in the hearts of men will cause all men to be honest. We will relieve suffering which man can hinder. This will settle labor agitations and end strikes, lockouts. Then will blacklisting and boy-cotting cease.

It will put an end to war and military and naval preparations.

In short great good to mankind and thus a powerful incentive to Christianity.

2. Christianity reveals to me my duty to my own soul, my duty to my neighbor, and my duty to God.

To the one, to whom this revelation comes it will cause him ever to be thankful and respect the revelator.

It will influence and cause him to respect the same. Hence may I say, this is a powerful incentive to be a Christian.

In the 3rd place the basic element of Christianity is love.

In 1st John we are taught concerning its origin and work and achieved result. A God of love is revealed to me. His love may be in my soul.

And thus may I say, that the greatest incentive to Christianity is this:—that the Word reveals a religion of love, a loving Saviour, a God who is love, and that this love from above even abides in the Christian.

NOTHING LIKE IT

C. H. WETHERBE

There is nothing like the gospel of Christ by which ungodly men and women are transformed into God-loving and God-serving people. Has any human philosophy ever so operated upon the most dissipated, the most savage people as to make them noble in character, kind in heart and honest in all of their conduct? Is there any instance on record where any scheme for the moral betterment of wicked and desperately lawless people has succeeded in changing them into persons of the highest moral character, causing them to be reverential to God and full of the most exalted happiness? Not a solitary instance. But this is just what the power of God, in

and through the gospel, has done in thousands and tens of thousands of instances. I think that, as a rule, we see more striking illustrations of the results of the operation of God's power in salvation, in heathen lands than we do in our land.

Mr. A. Forder, missionary, says, "I worked a great deal among the Arabs who live on the banks of the Dead Sea. They are considered the lowest and most degraded of all the Arabs. Not even the missionaries from Jerusalem will go among them. When they heard that I was going the people said, 'you must not go there, nobody does, and you'll die of the fever.' But go I did. The children in our schools are great believers in prayer. We had proof of this when wife was sick. One morning, when school opened, none of them appeared, but an hour later, they assembled. When I demanded an explanation, one little fellow said, 'don't be angry with us. This morning we all went to a dark cave and spent an hour on our knees, asking God to make your wife well. You needn't worry about her any more.' One little fellow, of only nine years, by his life at home, converted his father, who afterwards died in my arms, singing praises to the Savior."

What other power, besides God's could work such marvelous changes? Various world-religions have had the greatest opportunities to elevate and purify degraded people, but not one of them has given new character to bad hearts. Blind indeed is he who does not see that there is nothing like the power of God in the gospel to convert bad men into good men.

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY

MRS. RETTIE ELORA

Are we as individuals responsible for the conversion of the world? In a measure I think we are, especially we who profess to be followers of Jesus Christ. In the first place you will find that our Savior began his ministry with the invitation, come. Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest, and yet we find so many people who say as Felix did of old, I will wait for a more convenient season. Oh, they have no room in their hearts for Christ; they don't want him. How can you refuse when Christ is tenderly saying, come. If you will open your Bible and read you will find that blessed invitation, come, from Genesis to Revelations. Again we find he closed with the command, go. This he said to his apostles, and to those who profited by his instructions, he said I have chosen you and reclaimed you that you should go and bring forth much fruit; as my Father sent me, even so I send you. I believe he says to you and I today as he did to his apostles of old, come and go. Some of us have come to